

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 30, under the title ABSTRACT, please replace with the following paragraph:

An apparatus for treating a spinal disc comprising a band of biocompatible and/or bioabsorbable material which can be wrapped around the exterior of a spinal disc which is releasably connected to a positioning member comprising a curved distal portion and a handle. An end of the band is connected to the distal end of the positioning member and the positioning member is pulled back around the disc to direct the band around the disc. of material is wrapped around the disc to stabilize the disc and/or to facilitate healing. An elongate member is inserted around a posterior region of the disc, e.g., through tubular guide members. An end of the band is connected to a distal end of the elongate member, and the elongate member is pulled back around the disc to direct the band around the disc. The band is secured around the disc overlapping vertebrae adjacent the disc. Optionally, a relative location of the vertebrae is adjusted relative to the disc before wrapping the band around the disc, for example, using a fork member or traction. Energy may also be applied to the disc to enhance healing.